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TAGS: PREL ET
SUBJECT: UNAMIR COMMANDER ON RWANDA

L. UNAMIR COMMANDER, MAJOR GENERAL ROMEO DALLAIRE CALLED
AMB FLATEN FROM KIGALI THIS AFTERNOON. DALLAIRE IS STILL
DEEPLY ENGAGED IN TRYING TO BRING ABOUT AN END TO THE
KILLING AND A CEASEFIRE IN RWANDA. HE SPOKE OF THE
ATTITUDES OF THE PARTIES, HIS NEED FOR ADDITIONAL
RESOURCES, THE MILLES COLLINES PROBLEM, AND THE
SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ARUSHA TALKS.

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UNAMIR EXPANSION

2. DALLAIRE ASKED TO BE CAREFULLY PROTECTED ON HIS DESCRIPTION OF THE FORCE HE HAS RECOMMENDED; HE CLAIMS THAT ONLY HIS BOSS, GENERAL BARIL IN NEW YORK HAS THE DETAILS. DALLAIRE HAS ASKED FOR A FORCE OF 5000 TO 8000 MEN. HE BELIEVES THAT HIS MINIMUM OF 5000 IS BEING VIEWED FAVORABLY IN NEW YORK. THE 8000 MAY BE WHAT HE WANTS, BUT SEEMS OUT OF REACH. THE MINIMUM FORCE WOULD INCLUDE FIVE BATTALIONS OF LARGELY AFRICAN TROOPS, WITH A MANDATE TO USE FORCE AS NECESSARY TO ASSURE THE DELIVERY OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, THAT IS, TO FORCE ROADBLOCKS MANNED BY HOODLUMS AND TO DISARM ROVING GANGS. IT WOULD NEED TO BE LARGE ENOUGH TO PREVENT CONTINUING MASSACRES AND TO PERMIT THE FREE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY. IT WOULD NOT BE AN INTERVENTION FORCE INTENDED TO FIGHT EITHER ARMY. DALLAIRE BELIEVES THIS CAN BE DONE UNDER CHAPTER VI AUTHORITY. TO PROTECT HIS TROOPS, HE
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HAS REQUESTED L50 M-LL3 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS. IN ORDER TO BE USEFUL, THE EXPANDED FORCE MUST BE IN PLACE WITHIN TWO WEEKS.

3. DALLAIRE SPENT MUCH OF TUESDAY WITH RPF COMMANDER PAUL KAGAME AND VP PATRICK MAZIMHAKA (NOTE: TO THE RELIEF OF KIGALI WATCHERS, PATRICK APPARENTLY IS STILL A SIGNIFICANT PLAYER FOR THE RPF SIDE). DALLAIRE OBTAINED THE FULL AGREEMENT OF KAGAME TO THE SIZE AND TYPE OF FORCE HE IS PROPOSING. KAGAME HAS INSISTED THAT IF THE FORCE WERE TOO LARGE IT MIGHT TEMPT NEW YORK TO USE THAT FORCE TO PRESS THE PARTIES TO ACCEPT PARTICULAR NEGOTIATING POINTS, RATHER THAN PLAYING A NEUTRAL HUMANITARIAN ROLE. KAGAME SAID HE ACCEPTED THAT THE UN FORCE WOULD OPERATE BEHIND RPF LINES AS WELL AS BEHIND THE GOVERNMENT FORCES. HE ADMITTED THAT DALLAIRE WOULD DISCOVER THAT THE RPF HAD EXECUTED CERTAIN LEADERS IN THE OCCUPIED AREAS, AND THAT IT HAD KILLED CIVILIANS WHO WERE ARMED, BUT HE INSISTED THAT THE UN WOULD FIND NOTHING BEHIND HIS LINES LIKE THE MASSACRES OF CIVILIANS IN THE GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED AREAS.

4. ON THE ARMY SIDE, DALLAIRE REPORTS THAT THEY VERY MUCH WANT AN EXPANDED UN FORCE. DALLAIRE FEELS THAT

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GOVERNMENT FORCES WOULD LIKE THE PROTECTION THAT AN OUTSIDE FORCE MIGHT GIVE THEM FROM THE RPF. EVEN THOUGH DALLAIRE IS NOT PROPOSING THE TYPE OF FORCE THE GOVERNMENT WOULD APPARENTLY LIKE TO SEE, DALLAIRE SEEMED TO SEE NO PROBLEM OF GOR ACCEPTANCE OF HIS PROPOSAL.

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THE MILLES COLLINES

5. ON THE MILLE COLLINE INCIDENT, DALLAIRE SAID THE INCIDENT WAS UGLY AND DANGEROUS. HE SAID THAT THE PREFECT, THE CHIEF OF THE ARMY STAFF, A GROUP OF COLONELS, AND EVEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERAHAMWE (MRND YOUTH GROUP), COULD NOT CONTROL THE MOB THAT THREATENED THE CONVOY THAT UNAMIR WAS ATTEMPTING TO ESCORT TO THE AIRPORT. DALLAIRE HAD PREVIOUSLY OBTAINED PERMISSION IN WRITING TO BRING THE CIVILIANS FROM THE HOTEL TO A SAFE AREA. DALLAIRE SAID THE MOB HAD NOT BEEN DIRECTLY INCITED BY THE RIGHT WING RADIO STATION (RTLM), BUT THE RTLM HAD BROADCAST THE NAMES OF PERSONS BEING RESCUED BY THE UN, AND THAT WAS ENOUGH TO GENERATE THE NASTY MOB.

6. DALLAIRE HAS NOW STATIONED TROOPS AT THE HOTEL WITH ORDERS TO SHOOT TO PROTECT THE RESIDENTS. HE SAID HE WILL NOT TRY TO MOVE THE PEOPLE AGAIN UNTIL HE HAS MORE TROOPS AT HIS DISPOSAL. HE HAD LOOKED AT A SWAP OPTION, ESCORTING SOME PEOPLE DESIRED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO SAFETY IN KIGALI IN EXCHANGE FOR FREE PASSAGE FOR PERSONS IN THE MILLE COLLINES. BUT AFTER YESTERDAY, HE NO LONGER HAS CONFIDENCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT/ ARMY COULD DELIVER ON ANY PROMISES IT MIGHT MAKE. IN RESPONSE TO AN RPF STATEMENT THAT IT MIGHT TRY TO RESCUE THE HOTEL RESIDENTS, DALLAIRE SAID THE RPF HAS MADE SOME DARING RAIDS INTO GOVT TERRITORY TO PICK UP INDIVIDUALS, BUT PROBABLY COULD NOT MANAGE AN OPERATION LARGE ENOUGH TO RESCUE 300 PERSONS.

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KIGALI RADIOS

7. DALLAIRE SAID HE HAS SOMEONE MONITORING THE THREE RADIOS FULL TIME IN ENGLISH, FRENCH AND KINYARWANDA. RADIO RWANDA WAS QUITE NASTY FOR THE FIRST WEEK AFTER APRIL 6, BUT SINCE HAS CALMED DOWN, CARRIED NEWS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT CLINTON'S STATEMENTS ON RWANDA, BUT ITS NEWS ON MILITARY EVENTS IS TOTALLY UNREALISTIC, DENYING RPF ADVANCES AND PRAISING THE HEROIC VICTORIES OF THE RWANDAN ARMY. THE RTLM REMAINS VERY TROUBLESOME, COMPLETELY UNRECONCILED TO THE POSSIBILITY OF TUTSIS IN THE GOVERNMENT. THEY REFUSED UNTIL MAY 1 TO ACCEPT ANY STATEMENT BY DALLAIRE, FINALLY AGREED TO INTERVIEW HIM TO ASK WHY HE HAD FAILED TO PROTECT THE AIRPORT SO BELGIANS COULD NOT SHOOT DOWN THE PRESIDENT'S PLANE. THEY HAVE CONSISTENTLY ACCUSED DALLAIRE OF BEING PRO-RPF. DALLAIRE SAID HE WAS ABLE TO RESPOND THAT THE PRESIDENT'S PLANE CAME DOWN VIRTUALLY IN THE BACK YARD OF THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE, THREE OR FOUR MILES FROM THE AIRPORT PROTECTED BY UNAMIR. HE WON THE DEBATING POINT, BUT RTLM NEVER PLAYED THE INTERVIEW.

ARUSHA

8. DALLAIRE SAID THAT IF HE RECEIVED THE TROOPS HE HAS REQUESTED IN A REASONABLE TIME, HE BELIEVES THAT HE CAN PERSUADE THE RPF TO ACCEPT A CEASEFIRE. BUT HE SAID THAT KAGAME AND MAZIMHAKA DID NOT SEEM TO PLACE MUCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SIGNIFICANCE ON THE ARUSHA TALKS PRESENTLY UNDERWAY. THE PROBLEM SEEMS TO BE ONE OF ACCEPTABLE INTERLOCUTORS. DALLAIRE HAD BROUGHT THE TWO SIDES TOGETHER RIGHT AFTER THE PRESIDENT'S WERE KILLED, BUT HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO BRING THEM TOGETHER SINCE, EVEN THOUGH HE HIMSELF IS IN TOUCH WITH BOTH SIDES EVERY DAY AND IS ENGAGED IN A FORM OF SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY.

COMMENT

9. THOSE OF US WHO HAVE WORKED WITH DALLAIRE SINCE HE

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ARRIVED IN KIGALI IN SEPTEMBER FIND HIM TO BE AN
EXTRAORDINARILY CAPABLE AND DEDICATED OFFICER. HE SEEMS
TO HAVE DEVELOPED A KEEN INSIGHT INTO WHAT IS POSSIBLE IN
THE RWANDAN CONTEXT, AND TO HAVE GAINED THE CONFIDENCE OF
BOTH SIDES FOR HIS PROPOSAL.

10. BUJUMBURA MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.
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